Preliminary Amendment September 26, 2001 Page 5

REMARKS

This amendment cancels Claims 1 - 71 of the application. This amendment also amends Claim 72 to incorporate subject matter previously recited in Claim 52, now cancelled. Therefore, support for this amendment may be found in the application at now cancelled Claim 52. Claims 73 - 94 have been added to the application.

Claims 73 - 81 incorporate subject matter previously recited in Claims 53 - 71, now cancelled. Claims 82 - 84 incorporate subject matter previously recited in Claims 85 - 94 incorporate subject matter previously recited in Claims 62 - 71, now cancelled. Therefore, the Applicant submits that these claim amendments add no new matter to the application and may be properly entered. The Applicant may also elect to add additional claims to the application to provide coverage similar to, broader than or narrower than the present claims, as amended, at any time during the pendency of the above-identified U.S. patent application.

Amendment of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

foss a behitt

Ross A. Schmitt Reg. No. 42,529

Attorney for Applicant

LADAS & PARRY

5670 Wilshire Boulevard #2100 Los Angeles, California 90036

(323) 934-2300

Enclosures: Appendix (1 page)

APPENDIX

MARKED VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

72. (Amended) A metal matrix composite material, wherein the composite is formed from woven or chopped graphite and wherein the material is formed using [the] a method [of claim 52] comprising the steps of:

impregnating the graphite with a polymer containing a metal
powder;

drying the graphite;

passing the graphite through a molten bath of metal alloy that is at a temperature to carburise the polymer and so form the composite material; and

exerting pressure on the composite material to remove excess metal alloy therefrom.